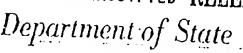
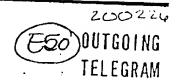
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E.O. 12356: NA TAGS: CASC, ASEC, CH SUBJECT: 1FCM81: TRANSCRIPT-OF AMEASSADOR WILLIAMS JUKE 15 TESTINORY

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MICHARD L. VILLIAMS ACTING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUREAU OF EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REFORE THE INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE HOUSE FOREIGH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE JUNE 15, 1889

CHAIRMAN DYNALLY AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE:

I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU TODAY TO DISCUSS OUR EFFORTS TO ASSIST AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE WAKE OF RECENT, DISTURBANCES IN CHIMA. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS NO HIGHER PRIGRITY THAN HELPING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHEN CRISIS STRIKES. DESPITE SOME CRITICISM, I BELIEVE OUR POSTS IN CRIMA AND ON THE PERIPHERY, AS WELL AS THE DEPARTMENT, PERFORMED THIS

TASK WELL IN EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES IN CHINA.

MORE THAN 6, SES AMERICANS LEFT CHINA SAFELY OVER THE PAST WEEN, ONE OF THE LARGEST EVACUATIONS OF AMERICANS IN A CRISIS SITUATION SINCE WORLD WAR IS. NO AMERICANS DIED IN THE CRISIS IN CHIMA, AND DRLY TWO US CITIZERS WERE INJURED DURING THE DISTURBANCES. BOTH OF THE INJURED AMERICANS ARE NOV ABBULATORY. WE ESTIMATE THERE ARE NOW APPROXIMATELY I, DOR MERICANS REMAINING IN CHINA, ENGLUDING 182 US GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

I VOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEFLY DESCRIBE FOR YOU THE SITUATION WHICK DEVELOPED IN CHINA AND THE STEPS OF TOOK TO ASSIST AMERICANS IN THE CRISIS.

THE CRESIS IN CHINA BEGAN TWO HONTES AGO WITH PEACEFUL DEHCHSTRATIONS IN BEIJING FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF FORCER PARTY LEADER HU YAOSANG DU APRIL 15. THE GOVERNMENT INITIALLY REACTED WITH RESTRAINT. THE DEMONSTRATIONS GREW IN SIZE AND IN POPULAR SUPPORT, THROUGH THE

ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAY 4 MOVEMENT, AND THEN DISRUPTED THE SCHEDULE FOR GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACREY'S VISIT TO BEIJING MAY 15-18. THE REACTION CONTINUED TO BE RESTRAINED ALTHOUGH THE AUTHORITIES WERE CLEARLY DISPLEASED WITH THE CHANGES FORCED IN THE GORBACHEV SURRLIT SCHEDURE.

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MILLIONS OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN THESE BEHONSTRATIONS BUT THE CROWDS WERE QUITE PEACEFUL, TRERE WERE YERY FEW REPORTS OF INJURIES, AND THERE WAS NO APPARENT THREAT TO FOREIGHERS IN BEIJING.

NONEYER. WE WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE BUILDUP OF TENSIONS IN BEIJING BURING THE GORBACKEY VISIT, AND WE ISSUED A TRAVEL ADVISORY OR MAY 18, URGING US CITIZENS TO USE CAUTION WHILE IN CHINA AND AVOID AREAS WHERE DEHONSTRATIONS HIGHT OCCUR.

ON HAY 13, PREHIER LI PENG DECLARED HARTIAL LAY IN BEILING, AND TROOPS BEGAN TO CONVERGE ON THE CITY. VITRIN HOURS, WE FORMED AN INFORMAL WORKING GROUP IN THE DEPARTMENT TO NOMITOR EVENTS IN CHEMA ON A 24-HOUR BASIS. WE REPT IN CLOSE CONTACT VITH EMMASSY BEIJING. OUR TRAVEL ADVISORY WAS STRENGTHENED, ADVISING AMERICANS TO DEFER ALL TRAVEL TO CHINA FOR 72 HOURS ISUBSEQUENTLY EXTENDED INDEFINITELY). DESPITE THE INCREASING CONCENTRATION OF TROOPS IN BEILING, AUTHORSTIES CONTINUED TO ACT WITH RESTRAINT, AS LINEN THE TROOPS WERE MALTED BY LARGE CONCENTRATIONS OF CIVILIANS AS THEY ATTEMPTED TO MARCH TO THE SQUARE.

ON SATURDAY, JUNE 3 CEARLY SUNDAY MORNING IN BEILINGS, ELEMENTS OF THE CHINESE ARMY LAUNCHED A BRUTAL ATTACK ON THE DEMONSTRATORS AT TIANAMMEN SQUARE. THE INFORMAL WORKING GROUP WAS IMMEDIATELY UPGRADED TO A FULL-SCALE CHINA TASK FORCE, ALSO STAFFED POUND THE CLOCK, WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL OF THE RELEVANT BUREAUS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THE EMBASSY IS BEILING AND OUR FOUR OTHER POSTS IN CHINA ALSO WENT TO A ROUNG-THE-CLOCK

EMBASSY OFFICERS, AT GREAT PERSONAL RISK, MELPED CLEAR AMERICAN CITIZENS OUT OF TIGNAMIEN SQUARE AS THE TROOPS BEGAR TO HOVE IN. ON SUNDAY, JURE 4, THE EMBASSY SENT OFFICERS TO ALL MOSPITALS NEAR THE FIGHTING TO SEE IF THERE WERE INJURED AMERICANS. ONLY ONE WAS FOUND; THE EMBASSY DOCTOR VISITED HIM AND HE WAS LATER BROUGHT TO A SAFE LOCATION. THE EMBASSY ALSO WORKED TO WIN THE RELEASE OF CRS CORRESPONDENT RICHARD ROTH, WHO HAD REEN DETAINED BY CHINESE AUTHORITIES DURING THE EVENTS IN THE

THE SITUATION BECAME INCREASINGLY UNCERTAIN IN BEIJING. THE EMBASSY WAS INSTRUCTED TO AUTHORIZE DEPARTURE OF DEPENDENTS ON THESDAY, JUNE 6, AND THE EMBASSY UNGED ALL AMERICANS IN BEIJING TO LEAVE AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. THE MILITARY SITUATION APPEARED TO DETERIORATE DRAMATICALLY IN BEILING AND ELSEWHERE DVER THE MEXT FEW HOURS: TROOPS EVEN FIRED RANDOMEY INTO THE DIPLOMATIC BOUSING AREAS. ON JUNE 7 US GOVERNMENT DEFENDENTS FROM BEIJING AND ALL CONSULATES IN CHINA WERE ORCERED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY, AND THE EMBACRY ADVISED ALL AMERICANS ANYWHERE IN CHINA TO LEAVE.

WE BELLIEVE THE TRAVEL ADVISORIES WERE SUCCESSFUL IN

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DISCOURAGING MANY AMERICANS FROM GOING TO CHINA AND
POTENTIALLY PUTTING THEMSELVES IN MARKS WAY. WERE IT
BECAME CLEAR AN EVACUATION RIGHT BE NECESSARY AS THE
SITUATION IN BELIFING DETERIORATED, THE FREASSY STAFF
ATTEMPTED TO TELEPHONE EVERY AMERICAN LISTED IN 115
FILES, SOME 1, 2880 PERSONS. AS YOU WOULD EXPECT, THE
EMBASSY RAD TO MAKE SEVERAL ATTEMPTS TO REACH MANY OF
THE AMERICANS BECAUSE IT WAS OFTEN DIFFICULT TO GET
THROUGH TO THEM. OUR POSTS IN CHEMOON, GUANGZHOU,
SMENYAMG, AND SMANGHAI MADE SIMILAR EFFORTS TO CONTACT
OFTER AMERICANS IN CHINA PRIOR TO THE TIARAHMEN

ON MONDAY AFTERNOON, JUKE 5, THE EMBASSY TOOK ACTION TO . MOVE PEOPLE FROM THE UNIVERSITY AREA TO HOTELS IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE CITY. AFTER EMBASSY REQUESTS TO . RENT BUSES WERE TURNED DOWN BY 24 LOCAL FIRMS, THE EMBASSY ORGANIZED CONVOYS USING EVERY AVAILABLE EMBASSY YENICLE TO TRANSPORT STUDENTS FROM THEIR UNIVERSITIES TO HOTELS, AND LATER TO THE AIRPORT.

OVER THE MEXT FEW DAYS, EMBASSY OFFICERS DROVE CARS AND VANS TO ALL UNIVERSITIES IN BEILING -- TO SOME AS MANY AS 8 TIMES -- COING AROUND BARRICADES, PAST TROOPS AND AROUNG TANKS, AND SOMETIMES CONFRONTING ROADSLOCKS NAMED BY ANGRY, MERYOUS, AND CONFUSED YOUNG SOLDIERS POINTING LOADER AUTOMATIC MEAPONS TOUR PERSONNEL DID THIS THEMSELVET BECAUSE THE CHIMESE DRIVERS OID HOT COME TO MORREL. EMBASSY PERSONNEL ALSO ASSISTED IN THE TRANSPORTATION OF OVER TWO HUNDRED AMERICANS TO THE BEIJING AIRPORT. IN ORCER TO EVACUATE AMERICANS STRANGED IN TIANLIN, THE EMBASSY ORGANIZED A CONVOY OF BUSES TO GO THERE TO PICK THEN UP. IN ADDITION TO SAFETY CONCERNS AND THE UNAVAILABILITY OF DOR USUAL STAFF DRIVERS, EMBASSY PERSONNEL ALSO HAD TO COPE WITH DEPLETED SUPPLIES OF GASOLINE AFTER GAS STATIONS WERE CLOSED FOR SEVERAL DAYS ON JUNE 7.

SCREDULED CORNERCIAL TRAFFIC OUT OF CHIMA WAS STRAIRED BY THE EXODUS OF THE FOREIGNERS. IN ORDER TO SUPPLEMENT COMMERCIAL SERVICE AND ENSURE THAT ALL ARRICANS WHO WISHED TO LEAVE COULD GET OUT IN A TIMELY FASHION, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE CHARTERED AIRCRAFT FOR SPECIAL FLIGHTS TO BELLING, SHANGHAI, AND WHAM; OUR EMBASTY ALSO WORKED WITH THE CANADIAN EMBASSY TO CHARTER A FLIGHT TO DALIAN. CONSULAR OFFICERS FROM THE DESTINATION POSTS ACCOMPANIED THESE FLIGHTS TO ASSIST, AND THE EMBASSY IN TOKYO AND CONSULATE GENERAL IN HONG KONG PROVIDED EXTENSIVE SUPPORT TO AMERICANS ARRIVING CHETESE FLIGHTS.

FOR EXAMPLE, EMBASSY TONYO HAD THIRTY MEMBERS OF 1TS
STAFF AT MARITA AIRPORT TO ASSIST EVACUEES, INCLUDING A
BOCTOR, A PHYSICIAM'S ASSISTANT, AND A MURSE TO PROVIDE
ALL ASSISTANCE MECESSARY. THE US MILITARY COMMAND
PROVIDED A FIVE-MAN MEDICAL TEAM AND PLACED THE US
MILITARY MOSPITAL ON STAND-BY. THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN
MORG MONG ALSO MOBILIZED ITS PEOPLE TO ASSIST THE LARGE
MUMSER OF AMERICANS EXITING SOUTH CHIMA.

IN BELIJING, EMBASSY DEPENDENT SPOUSES WORKED ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS ASSURING PROTECTION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

UNTIL THEY THEMSELVES WERE EVACUATED AFTER THE APARTMENTS OF SEVERAL AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICERS WERE SPRAYED WITH AUTOMATIC ULAPONS FIRE. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OFFICERS ASSISTED AMERICANS WITH LOARS WHEN MECESSARY FOR OHIVARD TRAVEL. ALL AVAILABLE OFFICERS, INCLUDING THE EMBASSY'S DEFENSE ATTACHES WORKED WARD TO GET CRITICAL INFORMATION TO REEP WASHINGTON INFORMED AND

STATE 288226 PROVIDE INFORMATION FOR THE EVACUATION.

DURING THIS PROCESS, THE VOICE OF AMERICA MADE FREQUENT BROADCASTS THAT PROVIDED INFORMATION ABOUT CHARIER FLIGHTS, TRAVEL ADVISORIES, AND OTHER RELEVANT CONDITIONS.

IN MASKINGTON, WE HAD AT VARIOUS TIMES OVER OME HUNDRED PEOPLE STAFFING THE CONSULAR AND EVACUATION TASH FORCE EACH DAY TO ASSIST WITH INQUIRIES. DURING THE PEAK DAY OF JUNE 6, SOME 4,808 CALLS WERE RECEIVED. THE TASH FORCE PREFARED AND SENT TO CHIMA INQUIRIES FOR SOME 1489 ARERICANS WHOSE RELATIVES MERE CONSERNED ABOUT THEIR WARREABOUTS. THE POSTS TREMSELVES REPORTED BACK TO US CONCERNING SOME 3288 AMERICANS.

I WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON ONE OTHER PRINCIPLE TRAT UNDERLAY OUR TRINKING ON FRE EVACUATION. WE FELT THAT ALL AMERICANS WERE IN SERIOUS CANGER AND VE VARIED TO BE CERTAIN THAT OFFICIAL DEPENDENTS AND OTHER AMERICAN CITIZENS WERE TREATED ON AN EQUAL BASIS. WE NADE SURE TWERE VAS ADEQUATE SPACE FOR ALL AMERICANS WHO WISHED TO LEAVE.. OUR ENTIRE STAFF REMAINED ON THE GROUND IN BEIJIND AND IN OTHER POSTS IN CHINA DESPITE THE VERY REAL DANGERS, DURING THE EVACUATION PROCESS AND BEYOND. AND AE NOTED, WE NADE GREAT EFFORTS TO CONTACT ALL AMERICANS IN CHINA TO HELP THOSE WHO WISHED TO LEAVE DOSO,

WE KNOW TRAT SOME AMERICANS WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH OUR EFFORTS TO ASSIST. WE ARE GENUINELY SORRY THAT SOME FELT MORE SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE. HOVEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS ENGRHOUS EVACUATION IN A SITUATION WHERE THERE COULD HAVE BEEN MANY AMERICAN CASUALTIES WAS A MAJOR SUCCESS. THOSE PEOPLE WHO WORKED ROUND THE CLOCK AT OUR MISSIONS IN CHIMA, IN TORYO AND HONG HONG, AND IN THE DEPARTMENT CAN TAKE GREAT SATISFACTION IN WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED.

I MUST ADD A PERSONAL MORD OF PRAISE FOR AMEASSADOR LILLEY. HE WAS TIRELESS AND EFFECTIVE IN HIS EFFORTS THROUGH THIS CRISIS, AND I KNOW HE INSPIRED ALL WHO WERE

THERE WORKING WITH HIM. IN MANY TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS DURING THOSE DAYS OF SUCH TURRULENCE AND STRESS I CAN TELL YOU THAT I HEARD HIS VOICE -- AND THE VOICES OF MANT DIKERS AT THE EMBASSY AND CONSULATES -- CRACKING WITH EMOTION AND FATIGUE. MAYBE IT WASN'T PERFECT. BUT THEY GAYE IT THEIR DAMMEDEST. AND SO DID A EQT OF PEOPLE BACK KERE AT NOME. BAXER